

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 AID-05 /076 W

----- 076595

R 011625Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9419

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03181

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, US, UK

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: DEPARTMENT'S ORGANIZATION,
ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES; REQUEST FOR MULTILATERAL IN-
FORMATION ON HOST GOVERNMENTS

REF: STATE 37591

1. (A AND B) - BRITAIN RIDES THREE HORSES IN THE PUR-
SUIT OF ITS MULTILATERAL INTERESTS. THE FIRST IS ITS
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE UK GENERALLY
SHARES THE US PERCEPTION OF WORLD EVENTS AND HOW THOSE
EVENTS AFFECT WESTERN INTERESTS. THERE ARE MANY DIFFER-
ENCES OF DEGREE AND DIFFERENCES OF TACTICS BUT THE OVER-
ALL VIEW IS IN CONCERT. BECAUSE OF THIS SHARED PERSPECT-
IVE, BRITAIN CAN BE EXPECTED TO ACT WITH US IN MOST
MULTILATERAL SITUATIONS. CERTAINLY ON MATTERS OF CONSTI-
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TUTIONALITY AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE UN CHARTER THE US

AND THE UK ARE IN FULL ACCORD. (THE BRITISH VIEW OF UNIVERSALITY, AT LEAST AS IT AFFECTS THE RECOGNITION OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMISSION TO THE UN IS DIFFERENT FROM OURS, BUT BASED ON LONG PRACTICE.) THE SECOND HORSE IS BRITAIN'S EVOLVING ROLE IN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY ITS RELATIONSHIP TO ITS EEC PARTNERS. THE UK WILL INCREASINGLY SEEK TO COORDINATE ITS POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS WITHIN THE NINE. AS THIS COORDINATION CONTINUES IN MORE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS SUCH AS REGULAR MEETINGS OF MINISTERS AND POLITICAL DIRECTORS, IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR BRITAIN TO BREAK RANKS WITH ITS EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES. IN SO FAR AS AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN INTERESTS COINCIDE, EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY IS AN ASSET. BUT MORE OFTEN THAN IN THE PAST BRITAIN MAY BE PLACED IN THE UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION OF HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN RELATIONSHIPS, AND US-UK DISCUSSION OF ISSUES WILL BE CONSTRAINED BY ITS EUROPEAN OBLIGATIONS. THE THIRD HORSE IS BRITAIN'S ROLE AS SPIRITUAL FONT OF THE UNIQUE COMMONWEALTH. IT IS ONE OF THE FEW ENDURING INSTITUTIONS THAT BRIDGES THE NORMAL DIVISIONS OF THE WORLD SUCH AS ECONOMY, RACE AND GEOGRAPHY. IT IS NOT A PARTICULARLY VITAL OR DYNAMIC STRUCTURE, BUT AS DIALOGUE WITH THE THIRD WORLD TAKES ON MORE IMPORTANCE, THE COMMONWEALTH CAN BE AN INSTRUMENT FOR REDUCING THE CHANCES OF CONFRONTATION. BRITAIN'S OBJECTIVES THEN ARE TO PURSUE ITS OWN MULTILATERAL INTERESTS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ACCOMMODATE THESE THREE RELATIONSHIPS AND NOT SEE THEM BECOME MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE OR CONTRADICTORY. (THE UK'S DISAGREEMENT WITH US TACTICS AT THE THIRTIETH UNGA MIGHT BE READ AS EVIDENCE OF ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO VIEW THE WORLD AS AN EITHER/OR CONFRONTATION OF BLOCS.)

(C) YES.

(D) NO.

(E) YES, BUT AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT BRITAIN TO MATCH ARM IN ARM WITH US THROUGH A HOST OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES.

2. THE EMBASSY'S MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER IS
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POLITICAL OFFICER RAYMOND SEITZ.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON03181
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760078-0268
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603108/aaaadrja.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 37591
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: DEPARTMENT'S ORGANIZATION, ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES; REQUEST FOR MULTILATERAL IN-
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, US, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006